

1 **Education Cabinet**

2 **Kentucky Board of Education**

3 **Department of Education**

4 **(Amendment)**

5 **704 KAR 3:340. Commonwealth Diploma Program.**

6 RELATES TO: KRS [~~156.031~~] 156.070, 156.160

7 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 156.070, 156.160

8 NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: [~~KRS 156.031 requires that~~

9 ~~administrative regulations relating to statutes amended by the 1990 Kentucky Education~~

10 ~~Reform Act be reviewed, amended if necessary, and resubmitted to the Legislative~~

11 ~~Research Commission prior to December 30, 1990;~~] KRS 156.070 authorizes the

12 Kentucky [~~State~~] Board of [~~for Elementary and Secondary~~] Education to prescribe such

13 courses of study, curriculums, and programs as it deems necessary for the common

14 schools; and KRS 156.160 requires the Kentucky [~~State~~] Board of [~~for Elementary and~~

15 ~~Secondary~~] Education to adopt administrative regulations determining the courses of

16 study for the different grades and the requirements for graduation from offered courses.

17 [~~A Commonwealth Diploma shall be issued to students completing a Commonwealth~~

18 ~~Diploma Program. The purpose of such a diploma and program are to encourage high~~

19 ~~academic achievement in Kentucky high schools; to encourage more of the capable~~

20 ~~students to attend college; to improve the working relationship between high schools and~~

1 ~~colleges and universities; and to allow students to gain college credit prior to attending~~
2 ~~college.~~] This administrative regulation implements a Commonwealth Diploma Program
3 and sets forth the [~~conditions and~~] criteria under which a Commonwealth Diploma shall
4 be issued.

5 Section 1. (1) The Kentucky [~~State~~] Board of [~~for Elementary and Secondary~~] Education
6 shall award to each student in the public schools of this state completing a
7 Commonwealth Diploma Program a Commonwealth Diploma. This diploma shall be
8 printed by the Kentucky Department of Education and sent to the appropriate district
9 upon verification of program completion to the Department of Education by the local
10 district.

11 (2) A [~~Each~~] diploma shall be issued in the name of each student so identified.

12 (3) Verification to the Department of Education [~~shall be on forms supplied by the~~
13 ~~Department of Education and~~] shall be submitted in a timely fashion so as to provide for
14 awarding of the Commonwealth Diploma at regularly scheduled graduation ceremonies
15 [~~;said forms being incorporated herein by reference and available for inspection, copying,~~
16 ~~and obtaining from the Office of Instruction, 18th Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, 500 Mero~~
17 ~~Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday]~~. Those
18 students receiving Commonwealth Diplomas shall be cited as recipients at graduation
19 ceremonies.

20 Section 2. Until the graduating class of 2010, the requirements for obtaining a
21 Commonwealth Diploma shall include [~~are as follows~~]:

(1) Successful completion of at least twenty-two (22) approved units of credit, including all the minimum unit requirements for high school graduation set forth in 704 KAR 3:305 and any additional units specified by the applicable local board of education; and [-]

(2) Successful completion of all minimum requirements of the Precollege Curriculum established by the Council on Postsecondary ~~[Higher]~~ Education in 13 KAR 2:020.

~~[Minimum Precollege Preparation requirements are as follows:~~

~~(a) Language arts four (4) units (English I, English II, English III, and English IV);~~

~~(b) Mathematics three (3) units (Algebra I, Algebra II, geometry and one (1) elective;~~

~~(c) Science two (2) units (Biology I or Chemistry I, or Physics I, and one (1) elective;~~

~~and~~

~~(d) Social Studies two (2) units (including World Civilization and U. S. History).]~~

(3) (a) Successful completion (i.e., receiving a grade or the equivalent of "C" or better) of at least four (4) courses, as hereinafter designated and which contain essential content as described in the Advanced Placement (AP) Program Course Descriptions published by the ~~[booklets of the]~~ College Entrance Examination Board ~~[-such booklets being incorporated herein by reference and copies of which may be obtained from the College Entrance Examination Board]:~~

1. English - one (1) course;

2. Science or mathematics - one (1) course (selected from biology, chemistry, or physics, or mathematics);

1 3. Foreign language - one (1) course (selected from French, German, Latin, or Spanish);
2 and

3 4. One (1) additional AP course (selected from English, science, foreign language,
4 history, computer science, political science, music, or art); or

5 (b) Successful completion (i.e., receiving a grade or the equivalent of "C" or better) of at
6 least four (4) courses, as hereinafter designated and which contain essential content as
7 described in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program course descriptions published
8 by [booklets such booklets being incorporated herein by reference and copies of which
9 may be obtained from] the International Baccalaureate North America, Inc.:

10 1. Language A, the student's first language English, - one (1) course;

11 2. Natural or experimental science or mathematics - one (1) course (selected from
12 biology, chemistry, physics, or mathematics);

13 3. Language B, a foreign language - one (1) course (selected from French, or Spanish);
14 and

15 4. One (1) additional IB or AP course.

16 (4) Completion of one (1) AP Examination in at least three (3) of the AP or IB areas
17 specified in subsection (3) of this section without regard to score.

18 Section 3. Beginning with the graduating class of 2010, the requirements for obtaining a
19 Commonwealth Diploma with an Academic focus shall include:

20 (1) Successful completion of at least twenty-two (22) approved units of credit, including

21 all the minimum unit requirements for high school graduation set forth in 704 KAR 3:305

22 and any additional units specified by the applicable local board of education;

1 (2) (a) Successful completion (i.e., receiving a grade or the equivalent of "B" or better) of
2 at least four (4) courses from at least two content areas which contain essential content as
3 described in the Advanced Placement (AP) Program Course Descriptions published by
4 the College Entrance Examination Board; or

5 (b) Successful completion (i.e., receiving a grade or the equivalent of "B" or better) of at
6 least four (4) courses in at least two content areas which contain essential content as
7 described in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program course descriptions published
8 by the International Baccalaureate North America, Inc.

9 (3) Completion of one (1) AP Examination in at least three (3) of the AP or IB courses
10 specified in subsection (2) of this section with one passing score consisting of a three (3)
11 or higher on the AP Examination or a score of four (4) or higher on the IB Examination
12 received prior to senior year so that the score will be received in a timely manner to
13 process the Commonwealth Diploma; or

14 (4) Completion of at least two AP or IB courses and two dual credit courses with course
15 grades of "B" or better and completion of at least (2) AP Examinations or IB
16 Examinations with one passing score consisting of a three (3) or higher on the AP
17 Examinations or a score of four (4) or higher on the IB Examination received prior to
18 senior year so that the score will be received in a timely manner to process the
19 Commonwealth Diploma; and

20 (5) A composite score of at least 1200 on the mathematics and verbal sections of the SAT
21 or a composite score of at least 26 on the ACT or minimum scores of proficiency on three
22 of four content area tests of the Kentucky Core Content Test with the required content

areas being Reading taken at the tenth (10th) grade and Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies taken at the eleventh (11th) grade.

Section 4. Beginning with the graduating class of 2010, the requirements for obtaining a Commonwealth Diploma with a Career and Technical focus shall include:

(1) Successful completion of at least twenty-two (22) approved units of credit, including the minimum unit requirements for high school graduation set forth in 704 KAR 3:305 and any additional units specified by the applicable local board of education;

(2) Successful completion (i.e., receiving a grade or the equivalent of “B” or better) in at least two (2) AP or two (2) IB courses;

(3) Completion of one (1) AP Examination in at least two (2) of the AP or IB courses specified in subsection (2) of Section 3, with one passing score consisting of a three (3) or higher on the AP Examination or a score of four (4) or higher on the IB Examination received prior to senior year so that the score will be received in a timely manner to process the Commonwealth Diploma;

(4) Successful completion (i.e., receiving a grade or the equivalent of “B” or better) in at least one (1) dual credit technical course;

(5) Receive a Skill Standards Certificate; and

(6) A composite score of at least 1200 on the mathematics and verbal sections of the SAT or a composite score of at least 26 on the ACT or minimum scores of proficiency on three of four content area tests of the Kentucky Core Content Test with the required content

areas being Reading taken at the tenth (10th) grade and Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies taken at the eleventh (11th) grade.

1 Section 5. (1) ~~[Section 3. During the 1987-88 and 1988-89 school years,]~~ The Kentucky
2 Department of Education shall reimburse to local school districts the costs of required AP
3 and IB examinations for all students successfully completing the ~~[aforementioned]~~
4 criteria established in this administrative regulation. ~~[Beginning with the 1989-90 school~~
5 ~~year,]~~ (2) Reimbursement shall ~~[will]~~ be contingent upon a student's receiving a
6 ~~[specified]~~ minimum ~~[composite]~~ score of three (3) on the ~~[three (3)-required]~~ AP
7 examination or a minimum score of four (4) on the IB examination. ~~[This requirement~~
8 ~~shall be phased in over a four-year period, with said minimum composite score starting at~~
9 ~~five (5) in 1989-90 and being raised by one (1) each school year until it reaches a~~
10 ~~minimum score of eight (8) in 1992-93.]~~ Reimbursement funds shall be sent for
11 distribution to local districts once each year on the basis of documentation supplied by
12 the district.

This is to certify that the chief state school officer has reviewed and recommended this administrative regulation prior to its adoption by the Kentucky Board of Education, as required by KRS 156.070(4).

(Date)

Gene Wilhoit
Commissioner of Education

(Date)

Keith Travis, Chairperson
Kentucky Board of Education

PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: A public hearing on this proposed administrative regulation shall be held on January 27, 2006, at 2 p.m. in the 1st Floor Conference Room, Capital Plaza Tower, 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky. Individuals interested in being heard at this meeting shall notify this agency in writing five working days prior to the hearing, of their intent to attend. If no notification of intent to attend the hearing is received by that date, the hearing may be canceled. This hearing is open to the public. Any person who wishes to be heard will be given an opportunity to comment on the proposed administrative regulation. A transcript of the public hearing will not be made unless a written request for a transcript is made. If you do not wish to be heard at the public hearing, you may submit written comments on the proposed administrative regulation. Written comments shall be accepted until January 31, 2006. Send written notification of intent to be heard at the public hearing or written comments on the proposed administrative regulation to Kevin M. Noland, Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel, Bureau of Operations and Support Services, Kentucky Department of Education, 500 Mero Street, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, phone 502/564-4474, fax 502/564-9321.